



SCIENCE

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FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support science learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

FIRST GRADE

What to expect:

In first grade, children become more independent as their reading skills improve and they are able to focus for longer periods of time. Building upon science skills from kindergarten, first-graders continue to expand their understanding of the world around them.

By observing the world, first-graders can come up with possible answers to questions such as "What happens when there is no light?", "What are some ways plants and animals meet their needs so that they can survive and grow?" and "How are parents and their offspring similar and different?" First-graders will be active learners who are doing science to learn science.

This information is a snapshot of learning in first-grade science. For a complete set of science academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Investigate the relationship between sound and vibration and the connection between light and our ability to see objects.
- Increase understanding of how plants and animals use the outermost parts of their body to help them survive, grow and meet their needs.
- Examine the ways parents help their offspring survive and study how young plants and animals are similar to, but not exactly the same as, their parents.
- Observe, describe and predict patterns in the movement of objects in the sky (the moon, stars, sun, etc.).

What to do at home:

- Explore the sounds made by everyday objects and instruments such as tuning forks and stretched strings and ask your child to identify them.
- Go on nature walks and ask your child to describe plant and animal parts and how they might help them survive. For example: Roses have sharp thorns that hurt, which might discourage people from picking them.
- Observe the sun, moon and stars and ask your child to describe the differences in their appearance or location from observation to observation.
- Go to the zoo or watch videos of baby animals and their parents and describe how they interact. Ask your child to describe the ways baby animals and parents look alike and different.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What are you interested in knowing more about?
- What else does that make you think of?
- Where do you think we can learn more about these things?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- What was your hardest rule to follow today? Why was it hard?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw and/or showed today?

Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming independent readers need time to read alone and with others. Families should take time to talk about books, magazines and other types of print with young readers. Use the following questions to help your first-grader better understand what he or she is reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

Join the conversation!

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